opening of a M.C.D. Primary School in Vasant Vihar C.P.W.D., Complex, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the number of such requests;

(c) whether Government propose to open a primary school in this area in the near future in the interest of education of children of the locality; and

(d) if so, by when the school is likely to be opened and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has a proposal to open a Primary School in Vasant Vihar C.P.W.D. Complex, New Delhi. The same is likely to be opened during 1988-89.

Setting up of an expert group on killer diseases

1426. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had set up an expert group of killer diseases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the said group have submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, what are the salient features of their recommendations;

(e) what is the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, for specific diseases such as Cancer, AIDS, etc., Government have set up Committees to advise on policy matters as well as programme implementation.

Amount released for implementation of "Operation Black-Board"

1427. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released by the Central Government so far to the State Governments for the implementation of the 'Operation Blackboard', State-wise; and

(b) the amount to be released during 1988-89 for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The amount released by the Central Government so far to the State Governments for the implementation of the Operation Blackboard during 1987-88 is given below:

S. No.	State	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Gujarat	231.84
2	Rajasthan	703.46
3	Uttar Pradesh	1297.09
4	Punjab	334.11
5	Haryana	62.93
6	Kerala	140.31
7	Orissa	753.00
	TOTAL	3522.74

(b) No amount has been fixed State-wise for release during 1988-89. It will be based on actual deficiency of teaching, learning material and second teachers reflected in the block project reports and sanctioned by State Level Empowered Committees.

Model Stations in West Bengal

1428. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis of selecting stations for being developed into model railway stations and the names of such stations selected so far in West Bengal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to select some more stations as model station in West Bengal; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Certain stations are nominated to be developed as model stations to serve as a model in respect of functional and aesthetic standards for catering to traffic expected to be dealt by turn of the century. These model stations have been selected on considerations that these should be at suitable locations like Zonal Headquarters, Divisional Headquarters, State Capitals, District Headquarter, important junctions of specific importance, etc.: The Stations selected in West Bengal are as under: (i) Sealdah (Eastern Railway, (2) Howrah (Eastern Railway), (3) Durgapur (Eastern Railway), (4) Malda Town (Eastern Railway), (5) Kharagpur (S. E. Railway).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Trains connecting Howrah with important stations in South

1429. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of berths available in trains connecting the stations Guwahati, Howrah, Mangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum and the frequency of trains every week;

(b) whether Government is considering the introduction of any direct daily train connecting the stations Howrah, Madras, Cochin, Trivandrum and Mangalore and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has received any request demanding direct train link between stations of Kerala and Howrah and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. However, besides trains mentioned in (a) above, two pairs of daily and one pair of triweekly trains are available between Howrah and Madras.

(c) Yes, Sir. In view of such demands, 951/952 Cochin-Howrah Express was introduced from October, 1987.